Michaela Community School
GOVERNING BODY MEETING
Minutes of meeting Monday 29th March 2021

Date and time:	**Location**:
Monday 29th March 2021, 5.30pm	Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Attendees:		
Name	**Present**	**Role**
Chidi Amadi (CA)	Present	Governor (Chair) (Finance)
Sharon Brittan (SB)	Present	Governor (Vice Chair)
Pia Decarlucci (PD)	Apologies	Governor (Safeguarding)
Mohsin Drabu (MD)	Present	Governor (Finance)
Katharine Birbalsingh (KB)	Present	Head Teacher
Katie Ashford (KA)	Present	Staff Governor
Matthew Godfrey (MG)	Present	Governor
Rebecca Williams (RW)	Present	Governor
Lundi Nyoni (LN)	Present	Governor
Daniel Hall (DH)	Present	Governor
Joel Davidson (JD)	Present	Governor (Finance)
Stephanie Ting (ST)	Present	Governor
Ali Mansfield (AM)	Present	Clerk

No.	FGB Items	Action
1.	**Welcome and apologies** CA welcomed governors to the remote meeting.	
2.	**Declaration of Business Interests**. • ***Outstanding forms:*** Forms outstanding from CA, SB and MD. • ***Any changes to the register to be declared:*** No changes to the register declared. • ***Any conflict of interest arising from this agenda to be declared:*** No conflicts declared.	**CA,SB,MD**
3.	**Minutes of the last meeting, 15th December 2020** • The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020 were **AGREED** as an accurate record. • There were no outstanding matters arising.	

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4.	**Governing Body Membership** • ***Parent Governor Vacancies***: Gita has this in hand. • ***Other changes to membership***: Calvin Robinson resigned as a governor on 04.01.21. • ***Potential new governor – Simon Virgo:*** Simon is a former teacher at Michaela who is keen to continue his involvement as a governor. Governors **AGREED** to this appointment pending the usual checks. • ***Skills Audits***: Only received from ST and RW, all governors to complete and return to AM. • ***Move to six meetings per year***: Governors **AGREED** to move to six meetings per year, meetings to take place towards the end of each half term. Three meetings per year will be at school, three will be via Zoom.	**All**
5.	**Head Teacher's Report** KB presented her HT Report to governors: • The children have now returned to school and are doing ok, but there are massive concerns around delays to learning. Although lessons were provided during lockdown via Zoom and Google Classrooms, many families were unable to support their children, and it is not possible to teach as effectively remotely. As a result many have fallen behind. • Attendance is around 90%. Truancy is becoming an issue lower down the school as children are not used to being in school. • Covid safety restrictions are also having a negative impact. It is not possible to chant or sing or greet pupils in the corridors and 'gee them up'. After Easter some of these restrictions will be eased. • There are concerns that the poor culture will embed despite the best efforts of staff. • Some of the staff who started in 2019 have never properly embedded. There are now two years of joiners who have not completed a year in school. SLT and middle leaders are providing lots of support. After Easter it is hoped to return to near normality to get staff to where they need to be for September. • Staff continue to be committed, with 100% attendance and effort. • Covid testing when school reopened went well. Q: Has the quality of homework declined? A: Yes, the work is not done well and some pupils are truanting because they haven't done it at all. Q: What is your biggest concern? A: Years 11 and 13 are ok. We are concerned about Years 9 and 10 and for Year 12 who did not sit GCSEs. Q: How is staff morale? A: They are disappointed as we are not able to have our normal Easter Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt. We couldn't hold our Christmas party at the end of last term either, so they are missing out on the fun things we normally do together. We have postponed both events to next term. Q: Do you have any concerns that the issues around blasphemy and the teaching of RE which erupted at Batley might occur at Michaela? A: We have a tight and well-designed curriculum so it would not occur. Q: Have you been able to communicate your concerns about the effects of lockdown to anyone in government?	

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	A: I have written articles and given interviews, but there is no point attempting anything further. We understand why government have taken the actions they have, we have to make the best of where we are and move forward. We are tremendously grateful to our staff for their continued commitment to the ethos.	
6.	**Safeguarding Report** KA presented the Safeguarding Report and highlighted the following: • Olivia Dyer continues to manage safeguarding in school. • All training is up to date, including training on peer-on-peer abuse. • There has been an increase in the number of safeguarding referrals due to Covid, the school continues to work closely with external agencies. • Where the Covid impact on attendance has been of particular concern referrals have been made to the Education Welfare Service. There were no questions from governors.	
7.	**Finance Report** ***Documents provided to governors:*** ○ Finance Report from Finance Manager ○ Budget Report at Month 4 showing variances ○ Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet at Month 4 ○ Trial Balance at Month 4 AM presented her Finance Report to Governors: • ***Budget position at Month 4:*** ○ Income is £1275 positive to budget overall. ○ Rates claim of £77k is not included in the figures. ○ Expenditure is £63k adverse to budget (3.5%). This includes £31k of staffing (2%), £14k of tribunal fees and £6k of IT upgrades in preparation for the new server. • ***Bank balances:*** These remain very healthy. Funds are held across four accounts. Unfortunately the interest rates on the 35 Day and 95 Day saver accounts have dropped significantly. There were no questions from governors.	
	AOB None.	
8	**Date of Next meeting** Doodle poll to be circulated.	